

Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 2 of 17

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JUN 13 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-146. (Canceled)

147. (Currently Amended) A method for publishing content, the method comprising:

receiving, by a publishing system, a selection of content from a user of said publishing system, said selection identifying an item of content;

receiving, by said publishing system, a request to publish the selected content from the user of said publishing system;

providing, by said publishing system in response to the request from the user to publish the content, information to a plurality of distributor systems, said information comprising a rights specification identifier and at least one of a description of the content, metadata of the content, content identifiers, publisher information, and content repository indication ~~and a rights specification identifier~~, said rights specification identifier indicating the rights that are available for distribution and sale;

upon receiving the information, generating, by one of the plurality of distributor systems, a response using said provided information and one or more pre-defined rules stored in a database including evaluating said rights specification identifier against said one or more pre-defined rules, wherein said one of the plurality of distributor systems uses said pre-defined rules to determine whether said one of the plurality of distributor systems is interested in the content specified by said provided information;

providing, by said one of the plurality of distributor systems, the response to said publishing system;

determining, by said publishing system, whether the response indicates that said one of the plurality of distributor systems is interested in the content specified by said provided information; and

upon said publishing system determining that said one of the plurality of distributor systems is interested in the content specified by said provided information,

Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 3 of 17

supplying, by said publishing system, metadata and a rights specification to said one of the plurality of distributor systems, said metadata including identification and descriptive data of said content, and said rights specification including at least one of distribution rights, usage rights and rights conditions.

148. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 147, wherein the one of the plurality of distributor systems further uses pre-defined rules to perform at least one of narrowing the rights defined by the rights specification and changing conditions defined by the rights specification, resulting in customized rights to offer to a rights consumer.

149. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 147, wherein the pre-defined rules comprise at least one of content type preferences, rights and conditions, preferences, content topics and publishers.

150. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, wherein the metadata includes data describing and identifying the content

151. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 150, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a content identifier, a title, an author's name, a publisher's name, a publication date, an image and a description of the content.

152. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 151, wherein the content identifier is at least one of an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI), and a Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN).

153. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 147, wherein the rights specification includes at least one of the right to print, view, play, extract, and export.

154. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, wherein the metadata is based upon a user profile, default metadata, at least one inference rule, and/or an analysis of the selected

Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 4 of 17

content.

155. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 147, further comprising creating, by publishing system, the rights specification.

156. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 155, wherein the rights specification is created, by the publishing system, based upon at least one of a user profile, a default rights specification, inference rules, and an analysis of the selected content.

157. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 156, wherein the rights specification includes at least one usage right and a condition upon which the usage right is contingent.

158. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising creating a publishing profile, wherein the publishing profile includes at least one publisher identifier and information relating to a pre-existing agreement between at least one of a publisher, a distributor and a registrar.

159. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising creating a publishing profile, wherein the publishing profile includes information regarding at least one of a distributor and facilitator through which a certain type of content is at least one of distributed, archived and registered.

160. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 158, wherein the publishing profile is created based upon a user profile, a default publishing profile, at least one inference rule and/or an analysis of the selected content.

161. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising confirming, by the publishing system, the request to publish.

162. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, wherein the user is a publisher.

Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 5 of 17

163. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 162, wherein the step of supplying comprises sending a publication notice to at least one distributor.

164. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 163, wherein the step of supplying further comprises receiving a response from the at least one distributor.

165. (Withdrawn) The method for claim 164, further comprising packaging the content for the distributor if the response from the at least one distributor indicates that the distributor wants to distribute the content.

166. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, wherein the user is a distributor or a content creator.

167. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising packaging the content.

168. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 167, wherein the step of packaging comprises sending the content to a distributor.

169. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 167, wherein the step of packaging comprises storing the content in at least one of storage and distribution media.

170. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 167, wherein the step of packaging comprises encrypting the content.

171. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 167, wherein the step of packaging comprises sending the content to a content repository.

172. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising registering, by the publishing system, the content.

Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 6 of 17

173. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 172, wherein the step of registering comprises forwarding at least one of metadata, a record of published content, a content identifier, the rights specification and marketing information to a registrar.

174. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising registering, by the publishing system, the transaction of supplying.

175. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 174, wherein the step of registering the transaction comprises storing transaction information in a transaction database.

176. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, wherein the step of supplying comprises:

preparing a notice that includes the metadata and rights specification; and  
sending the notice to the distributor.

177. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising using at least one distributor business rule to determine whether the distributor wants to distribute the selected content and wherein the supplying is based upon the determination.

178. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising receiving a response from the distributor and wherein the supplying is based upon the response.

179. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising updating, by the distribution system, a distributor catalog based upon the metadata and rights specification.

180. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising modifying, by the distribution system, one of the metadata and rights specification based upon a distributor business rule.

181. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising storing the

Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 7 of 17

metadata in a metadata database.

182. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising storing in a catalog database the metadata and the rights specifications associated with the content.

183. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising providing an interface for communication with the publishing system.

184. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising storing at least one of said pre-defined rules in a rules database.

185. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising:  
providing a consumer interface for generating a consumer profile and a consumer database; and  
storing at least one consumer profile in the consumer database.

186. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 175, further comprising storing at least one transaction record in the transaction database.

187. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, further comprising identifying the content and the metadata for the content through a user computer system, the metadata being based on a user profile and including a content identifier.

188. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 187, further comprising associating a usage rights template and a publishing profile with the content, the publishing profile including a publisher identifier.

189. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 188, further comprising storing the content to at least one of an identified content repository and media defined by the publishing profile.

190. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 189, further comprising validating and

Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 8 of 17

registering the content, the metadata, a usage rights specification defined by the usage rights template and the publishing profile by a registrar computer system.

191. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 190, further comprising notifying the distributor of the newly available content, the publisher identifier and the content identifier.

192. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 191, further comprising, in response to a request indicating the content identifier and the publishing identifier, transmitting the metadata and the usage rights specification to the distributor.

193. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 192, further comprising automatically generating an item in the catalog of the distributor based on the metadata and the usage rights specification to thereby make the content available for selection by consumers.

194. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 147, wherein the metadata further includes at least one of a title of the content, the creator of the content, a publisher of the content, the publication date, a Digital Object Identification (DOI), the Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN), a description of the content, and an image associated with the content.

195. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 147, wherein the rights specification includes information regarding the specific rights granted to the content if a given set of conditions is satisfied.

196. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 193, wherein said step of automatically generating an item comprises performing a sequence of actions specified by the publishing profile.

197. (Withdrawn) A system including one or more hardware and/or software devices configured to perform the steps recited in claim 147.

198. (Withdrawn) A computer readable medium including one or more computer

Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 9 of 17

readable instructions embedded therein and configured to cause one or more computer processors to perform the steps recited in claim 147.

199. (Currently Amended) A system for publishing content, the system comprising:  
a publishing system for receiving a selection of content from a user of said publishing system, said selection identifying an item of content;

said publishing system receiving a request to publish the selected content from the user of said publishing system;

a plurality of distributor systems;

said publishing system providing in response to the request from the user to publish the content, information to the plurality of distributor systems, said information comprising a rights specification identifier and at least one of a description of the content, metadata of the content, content identifiers, publisher information, and content repository indication ~~and a rights specification identifier~~, said rights specification identifier indicating the rights that are available for distribution and sale;

upon receiving the information, one of the plurality of distributor systems generating a response using said provided information and one or more pre-defined rules stored in a database including evaluating said rights specification identifier against said one or more pre-defined rules, wherein said one of the plurality of distributor systems uses said pre-defined rules to determine whether said one of the plurality of distributor systems is interested in the content specified by said provided information;

said one of the plurality of distributor systems providing the response to said publishing system;

said publishing system determining whether the response indicates that one of the plurality of distributor systems is interested in the content specified by said provided information; and

upon said publishing system determining that one of the plurality of distributor systems is interested in the content specified by said provided information, said publishing system supplying metadata and a rights specification to said one of the plurality of distributor systems, said metadata including identification and descriptive data of said content and said rights specification including at least one of distribution rights, usage rights and rights



Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 10 of 17

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JUN 13 2007

conditions.

200. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 199, wherein one of the plurality of distributor systems further uses pre-defined rules to perform at least one of narrowing the rights defined by the rights specification and changing conditions defined by the rights specification, resulting in customized rights to offer to a rights consumer.

201. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 199, wherein the pre-defined rules comprise at least one of content type preferences, rights and conditions, preferences, content topics and publishers.

202. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, wherein the metadata includes data describing and identifying the content

203. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 202, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a content identifier, a title, an author's name, a publisher's name, a publication date, an image and a description of the content.

204. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 203, wherein the content identifier is at least one of an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI), and a Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN).

205. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 199, wherein the rights specification includes at least one of the right to print, view, play, extract, and export.

206. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, wherein the metadata is based upon a user profile, default metadata, at least one inference rule, and/or an analysis of the selected content.

207. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 199, further comprising creating, by publishing system, the rights specification.

Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 11 of 17

208. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 207, wherein the rights specification is created, by the publishing system, based upon at least one of a user profile, a default rights specification, inference rules, and an analysis of the selected content.

209. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 208, wherein the rights specification includes at least one usage right and a condition upon which the usage right is contingent.

210. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising creating a publishing profile, wherein the publishing profile includes at least one publisher identifier and information relating to a pre-existing agreement between at least one of a publisher, a distributor and a registrar.

211. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising creating a publishing profile, wherein the publishing profile includes information regarding at least one of a distributor and facilitator through which a certain type of content is at least one of distributed, archived and registered.

212. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 211, wherein the publishing profile is created based upon a user profile, a default publishing profile, at least one inference rule and/or an analysis of the selected content.

213. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising confirming, by the publishing system, the request to publish.

214. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, wherein the user is a publisher.

215. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 214, wherein the step of supplying comprises sending a publication notice to at least one distributor.

Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 12 of 17

216. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 215, wherein the step of supplying further comprises receiving a response from the at least one distributor.

217. (Withdrawn) The system for claim 216, further comprising packaging the content for the distributor if the response from the at least one distributor indicates that the distributor wants to distribute the content.

218. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, wherein the user is a distributor or a content creator.

219. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising packaging the content

220. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 219, wherein the step of packaging comprises sending the content to a distributor.

221. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 219, wherein the step of packaging comprises storing the content in at least one of storage and distribution media.

222. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 219, wherein the step of packaging comprises encrypting the content.

223. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 219, wherein the step of packaging comprises sending the content to a content repository.

224. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising registering, by the publishing system, the content.

225. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 224, wherein the step of registering comprises forwarding at least one of metadata, a record of published content, a content identifier, the rights specification and marketing information to a registrar.

Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 13 of 17

226. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising registering, by the publishing system, the transaction of supplying.

227. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 226, wherein the step of registering the transaction comprises storing transaction information in a transaction database.

228. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, wherein the step of supplying comprises:

preparing a notice that includes the metadata and rights specification; and  
sending the notice to the distributor.

229. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising using at least one distributor business rule to determine whether the distributor wants to distribute the selected content and wherein the supplying is based upon the determination.

230. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising receiving a response from the distributor and wherein the supplying is based upon the response.

231. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising updating, by the distribution system, a distributor catalog based upon the metadata and rights specification.

232. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising modifying, by the distribution system, one of the metadata and rights specification based upon a distributor business rule.

233. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising storing the metadata in a metadata database.

234. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising storing in a catalog database the metadata and the rights specifications associated with the content.

Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 14 of 17

235. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising providing an interface for communication with the publishing system.

236. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising storing at least one of said pre-defined rules in a rules database.

237. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising:  
providing a consumer interface for generating a consumer profile and a consumer database; and  
storing at least one consumer profile in the consumer database.

238. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 227, further comprising storing at least one transaction record in the transaction database.

239. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, further comprising identifying the content and the metadata for the content through a user computer system, the metadata being based on a user profile and including a content identifier.

240. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 239, further comprising associating a usage rights template and a publishing profile with the content, the publishing profile including a publisher identifier.

241. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 240, further comprising storing the content to at least one of an identified content repository and media defined by the publishing profile.

242. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 241, further comprising validating and registering the content, the metadata, a usage rights specification defined by the usage rights template and the publishing profile by a registrar computer system.

243. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 242, further comprising notifying the

Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 15 of 17

distributor of the newly available content, the publisher identifier and the content identifier.

244. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 243, further comprising, in response to a request indicating the content identifier and the publishing identifier, transmitting the metadata and the usage rights specification to the distributor.

245. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 244, further comprising automatically generating an item in the catalog of the distributor based on the metadata and the usage rights specification to thereby make the content available for selection by consumers.

246. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 199, wherein the metadata further includes at least one of a title of the content, the creator of the content, a publisher of the content, the publication date, a Digital Object Identification (DOI), the Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN), a description of the content, and an image associated with the content.

247. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 199, wherein the rights specification includes information regarding the specific rights granted to the content if a given set of conditions is satisfied.

248. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 245, wherein said step of automatically generating an item comprises performing a sequence of actions specified by the publishing profile.

249. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including one or more computer readable instructions embedded therein for publishing content and configured to cause one or more computer processors to perform the steps of:

receiving, by a publishing system, a selection of content from a user of said publishing system, said selection identifying an item of content;

receiving, by said publishing system, a request to publish the selected content from the user of said publishing system;

providing, by said publishing system in response to the request from the user

Application No.: 111325-140100

Serial No. 09/788,500

Page 16 of 17

to publish the content, information to a plurality of distributor systems, said information comprising a rights specification identifier and at least one of a description of the content, metadata of the content, content identifiers, publisher information, and content repository indication ~~and a rights specification identifier~~, said rights specification identifier indicating the rights that are available for distribution and sale;

upon receiving the information, generating, by one of the plurality of distributor systems, a response using said provided information and one or more pre-defined rules stored in a database including evaluating said rights specification identifier against said one or more pre-defined rules, wherein said one of the plurality of distributor systems uses said pre-defined rules to determine whether said one of the plurality of distributor systems is interested in the content specified by said provided information;

providing, by said one of the plurality of distributor systems, the response to said publishing system;

determining, by said publishing system, whether the response indicates that the one of the plurality of distributor systems is interested in the content specified by said provided information; and

upon said publishing system determining that the one of the plurality of distributor systems is interested in the content specified by said provided information, supplying by said publishing system, metadata and a rights specification to said one of the plurality of distributor systems, said metadata including identification and descriptive data of said content and said rights specification including at least one of distribution rights, usage rights and rights conditions.